

## CM Revanth Reddy slams BRS for obstructing the assembly session

**The opposition BRS conspired to stall the session fearing their misdeeds and wrongdoings will come light in the house**

**Speaker is following the rules stipulated by the previous BRS government**

**Speaker allowed BRS members in the house even after they abused the chair and assaulted police outside the assembly**

**The BRS MLAs did not apologize to the Speaker and instead created ruckus in the house**

**CM Revanth Reddy speaks during the debate on 22 A prohibited list in the Assembly today**

“Hyderabad :“Honourable Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy slammed the opposition BRS for obstructing the Assembly session. The opposition conspired to stall the session fearing their misdeeds would come to light during the debates on the land issues, the Chief Minister charged. “During the debate on 22 A prohibited list in the Assembly on Wednesday , the CM accused the BRS of creating pandemonium in the house fearing the issues such as the plundering of government lands, fee reimbursement, the drought situation, and the occult rituals performed by some individuals would come up for debate. “CM Revanth Reddy took a broadside at the BRS members for not supporting the Speaker who allowed them even after the opposition members hurled abuses at the Chair. The BRS MLAs verbally abused the police, staged a semi-nude protest, and even insulted the Speaker. The Speaker permitted them to attend the session anticipating the BRS legislators would apologize to the Speaker and participate in the debate on people’s issues. Instead, the BRS MLAs created ruckus in the house and the speaker was forced to suspend them. “Respecting the Speaker is a tradition for the members. The Speaker is the one who protects the rights of every member in the House.”“The Chief Minister pointed out that it was the previous government that formulated certain rules regarding the conduct of the House proceedings. The Speaker issued directives in accordance with those rules and the police enforced the Speaker’s directives at Gate No. 3. The CM objected to the Opposition leaders’ claim that Rahul Gandhi entered the Parliament wearing a black T-shirt. The Lok Sabha Speaker did not impose such rules in Parliament.



Had the Speaker issued orders prohibiting entry while wearing T-shirts bearing slogans, they would have complied. “CM Revanth Reddy highlighted the importance given to women in his government. “Our government resolved to safeguard the self-respect of women and set a goal to 10 million women ‘crorepatis’.”[8:48 PM, 9/16/2026] +91 83413 24999: CMO

## BJP STATE CHIEF CLARIFY MISINFORMATION ON UPI

Hyderabad, Sept 16 : Emphasizing the need to address the misinformation being circulated regarding UPI, Telangana State BJP President N Ramchander Rao today clarified that MDR ( Merchant Discount Rate) is not a tax.“

Rao, in a statement, said MDR is a payment made to banks and payment-service providers for processing transactions similar to the processing mechanism that already exists for debit and credit cards.“

For instance, Visa and Mastercard debit-card transactions carry around 0.9 per cent MDR, while Visa and Mastercard credit-card transactions generally carry MDR in the range of 2 to 3 per cent, he said adding that under the new UPI framework, there is no impact whatsoever on person-to-person transactions. UPI will continue to remain completely free for all P2P transactions, irrespective of the amount transferred.“

Rao further clarified that payments to merchants up to Rs 2,000, along with transactions covered under the zero-MDR framework for small merchants, will also remain free. Consequently, approximately 96 per cent of all person-to-merchant transactions will remain unaffected. RuPay debit-card payments also continue to remain charge-free, he said and added that around 96 per cent of UPI merchant transactions are ₹2,000 or below, and these transactions remain charge-free. “

It is equally important to understand that the government itself has been supporting the digital-payment ecosystem in order to keep UPI free. Incentive support of Rs 1,389 crore, Rs. 2,210 crore and Rs. 3,631 crore was provided from FY22 to FY24. In 2025–26, Rs. 2,196.21 crore in incentive support has been provided, while Rs. 2,000 crore has been budgeted for FY27.“

The scale achieved by UPI today is unprecedented. In FY 2025–26, India recorded 24,162 crore UPI transactions worth Rs. 314.23 lakh crore. This translates to around 66 crore UPI transactions every single day. UPI today accounts for roughly 85 per cent of India’s digital-payment transactions, while India contributes approximately 49 per cent of the world’s real-time payment transaction volume.“

It must also be clearly stated that MDR is neither a tax nor a charge collected by the government or NPCI. The amount is distributed among participants in the payment ecosystem, including banks and payment application providers, to support the operation, maintenance and continued expansion of UPI infrastructure , Rao said and pointed out that for a long period, UPI operated under a completely free regime, with banks, fintech companies and digital-payment providers bearing the burden of infrastructure investment.“ He said maintaining a payment system of this scale requires enormous technological investment. In the past, sudden surges in transaction volumes resulted in UPI failure rates reaching as high as 15 to 30 per cent. With transaction volumes expected to grow from 24 billion to 50 billion within two years, the IT infrastructure supporting real-time payments will have to be significantly upgraded.““ If banks are made to bear the entire cost, it can ultimately have an impact on depositors. Under the proposed framework, part of the cost will instead be shared by specified merchants who directly benefit from accepting digital payments, he said.“

UPI has grown into the world’s largest real-time payment ecosystem. Any discussion about its long-term sustainability must therefore be understood in the context of maintaining, strengthening and expanding this enormous digital infrastructure.

## TDP Holds Massive Protest at Collectorate Over 22A Prohibited Lands

“UPPAL, SEPTEMBER 16 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Acting on the directions of the Telangana Telugu Desam Party Central Committee, party leaders staged a massive protest outside the Medchal-Malkajgiri District Collectorate on Wednesday, demanding the immediate resolution of long-pending issues concerning lands listed under Section 22A of the Registration Act across the state. “The protesters raised slogans demanding that disputes involving lands that have remained on the prohibited list for decades be resolved without further delay and that justice be delivered to the affected landowners. Following the protest, they submitted a memorandum outlining their demands to officials at the District Collector's office. “Telugu Desam Party Politburo members Bakkani Narasimha, Aravind Kumar Goud, Malkajgiri Parliamentary President Kandikanti Ashok Goud



and Medchal Assembly Constituency in-charge Sunkara Venkatesh participated in the protest and addressed the gathering. “The leaders expressed concern that lakhs of landowners across the state were facing severe difficulties due to Section 22A restrictions, which prevented them from selling their own lands or using them for various personal and financial needs. They alleged that government inaction had made the problem increasingly com-

plicated and demanded that the government intervene immediately to resolve the land disputes. “TDP Malkajgiri Parliamentary Ad Hoc Committee members Karanam Gopi, Chandrasekhar and Ramakrishna, along with Telugu Yuvatha General Secretary Naresh Mudiraj, participated in the Collectorate protest and submission of the memorandum. Jawaharnagar president Namala Suresh, Venkatramana, Dammaiguda president Krishnarao, Nagaram president Konda Jangareddy, and party leaders Nagaraju, Tandalapalli Shankar, Kapra senior leader Ramulu Yadav, Telugu Mahila leader Ashabdintu, Uma Shankar Goud and Koteswara Rao were among those who participated. A large number of party workers joined the protest and expressed their support for the demands.

## Speed Up Development in Kowkooor–Yapral

MLA Marri Rajasekhar Reddy Directs Officials to Prepare Comprehensive Proposals

“ALWAL SEPTEMBER 16 (INDIAN CHRONICLE) “Malkajgiri MLA Marri Rajasekhar Reddy directed officials to speed up development works in the Kowkooor and Yapral areas and prepare comprehensive proposals based on local requirements. A review meeting on development works in the Kowkooor and Yapral divisions was held on Wednesday at the Malkajgiri MLA Camp Office under the chairmanship of Marri Rajasekhar Reddy. Officials from various departments participated in the meeting. During the meeting, the MLA reviewed issues related to basic infrastructure, drinking water, drainage and electricity in the two areas. He instructed officials to inspect the problems at the field level and identify the works



required on a priority basis. The MLA stressed the need for coordination among the concerned departments to ensure that essential works are taken up without delay. He directed officials to prepare detailed proposals at the earliest and initiate further action for the comprehensive development of Kowkooor and Yapral. Electricity Department ADE Prabhakar Reddy, AE

Srinivas, Water Board DGM Venkateshwarlu and Mallikarjun, MMC AE Satyalakshmi, along with BRS leaders JAC Venkanna, Karamchand, Laxman Yadav, Venkatesh Yadav, Raju Yadav, Chindam Srinivas, Alli Srinivas, Ramesh, Tirupati Rao Reddy, Hanuman Chary, Satish, Shobha, Vikram, Ratna Mary, Rama, Parimala, Srilatha and Hamsa, among others, attended the meeting.

## Samudrala Dhananjayya Appointed Nalgonda INTACH Chapter Convener

“Hyderabad, September 16 (Indian Chronicle) : Lion Samudrala Dhananjayya has been appointed Convener of the Nalgonda INTACH Chapter by the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH). INTACH Chairman Ashok Singh Thakur handed over the appointment letter at the organisation's headquarters in New Delhi. INTACH Member Secretary Ravindra Singh, IAS (Retd.), National Executive Committee and Governing Council members Prof. Engineer Vedakumar Manikonda and



Neel Kamal Maheshwari, Chapters Division Director Captain Shukla, Executive Committee and Governing Council member Janab Sajjad Shahid, Telangana State Chapter Convener and others attended the programme. Dhananjayya said the chapter would work for the preservation, documentation and promotion of Nalgonda's tangible and intangible heritage, including historic temples, forts, Buddhist and archaeological remains, inscriptions, traditional water systems, folk traditions, handicrafts and performing arts. He said heritage conservation would be strengthened through the participation of local communities, educational institutions and youth.

## Akbar Baig Elected Assistant Treasurer of All India University Employees Confederation

“Tarnaka, September 16 (INDIAN CHRONICLE) : “Akbar Baig has been elected as the Assistant Treasurer of the All India University Employees Confederation (AIUEC) at the recently conducted organisational elections held at Osmania University, Hyderabad. “The election brought together representatives of university employees and non-teaching staff from different parts of the country. The newly elected office-bearers will work towards strengthening the organisation and addressing the professional, service and welfare-related issues of university employees. “Akbar Baig, who has been actively associated



with employees' and non-teaching staff associations, will continue to serve in his existing organisational responsibilities as well. He is presently the General Secretary of the Osmania University Technical Staff Association and the Vice-President of the Telangana University Non-Teaching Employees Association. “On his election as Assistant Treasurer of the All India University Employees Confederation, colleagues and members of various university employees' associations congratulated Akbar Baig and expressed confidence that he would effectively represent the concerns and interests of university employees at the national level. “Speaking on the occasion, Akbar Baig thanked the members and representatives who supported his candidature and expressed his commitment to work-

ing collectively for the welfare of university employees. He stated that strengthening unity among non-teaching employees, safeguarding service-related interests and ensuring better working conditions would remain among his priorities. “University employees and representatives from various associations conveyed their best wishes to Akbar Baig on his new responsibility and hoped that his experience in employee organisations would contribute to strengthening the All India University Employees Confederation. “His election is being viewed by members of the university employees' community as an opportunity to further highlight the issues and concerns of non-teaching staff at the national level.

# 14-Foot Ganesha Idol Made with 10,000 Plates

## Surya Prakash's Unique Initiative for an Eco-Friendly Ganesh Chaturthi

Nacharam, September 16(INDIAN CHRONICLE): "As the city celebrates Ganesh Chaturthi, a young man from Baba Nagar in Nacharam has once again come up with a unique initiative to promote environmental protection. Kandikuppa Surya Prakash has been creating innovative eco-friendly Ganesha idols for the past 16 years, earning appreciation from devotees and environmental enthusiasts. "As part of this year's celebrations, Surya Prakash has created a 14-foot-tall eco-friendly Ganesha idol using nearly 10,000 traditional leaf plates (vistarakulu) and moduga-leaf bowls. The unique idol has attracted considerable attention from devotees and local residents. "Surya Prakash has been independently taking up the initiative every year by spending his own money and using



innovative ideas to create Ganesha idols from environmentally friendly and easily available materials. His objective is to discourage the use of Plaster of Paris (PoP) idols and reduce water and air pollution, while encouraging people to celebrate festivals in an environmentally responsible manner. "Operation Sindoor and Chandrayaan-themed Ganesha idols "Surya Prakash has also been incorporating contemporary national themes into his creative Ganesha idols. During the previous year, he designed an Operation Sindoor-themed Ganesha idol, reflecting his support for the country's armed forces following the Indian government's Operation Sindoor. "Similarly, he created a Chandrayaan-themed Ganesha idol, inspired by India's space exploration efforts and the achievements of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Through these innovative concepts, he has been using his creativity to connect festival celebrations with contemporary

national events and achievements. "16 Years of Innovative Ganesha Idols "Surya Prakash began his eco-friendly Ganesha initiative in 2010, with the aim of discouraging PoP idols and creating awareness about environmental protection. Since then, he has experimented with different recyclable and locally available materials every year. "His creative Ganesha idols over the years include: "2010: Newspaper Ganesha "2011: Paper tea-cup Ganesha "2012: Clay-lamp (Pramida) Ganesha "2013: Water-packet Ganesha "2014: Tissue-paper Ganesha "2015: Matchbox Ganesha "2016: Machine-thread Ganesha "2017: Doraemon Ganesha "2018: Kinder Joy-toy Ganesha "2019: Ice-cream-cup Ganesha "2020: Earbud Ganesha "2021: Ice-cream-stick Ganesha "2022: Coffee-bean Ganesha "2023: Chandrayaan Ganesha "2024: Paper-straw Ganesha "2025: Operation Sindoor Ganesha "2026: Ganesha made with 10,000 leaf plates and moduga-leaf bowls "Surya Prakash, a symbol of creativity "With his continuous efforts and innovative thinking, Surya Prakash has earned recognition for creating diverse eco-friendly Ganesha idols. Instead of depending on others, he has been bearing the expenses himself and dedicating his time and resources towards promoting environmentally friendly celebrations. "His creativity and commitment have also been recognised by several organisations, which have felicitated him and presented him with appreciation certificates and awards, including a home theatre. "Surya Prakash's 16-year journey demonstrates how creativity can be combined with environmental responsibility. His unique Ganesha idols not only attract devotees but also convey an important message about protecting nature and reducing pollution during festival celebrations. "Local residents and devotees have appreciated his sustained efforts and innovative approach, stating that such initiatives can inspire more people to choose eco-friendly Ganesha idols and environmentally responsible celebrations.



national events and achievements. "16 Years of Innovative Ganesha Idols "Surya Prakash began his eco-friendly Ganesha initiative in 2010, with the aim of discouraging PoP idols and creating awareness about environmental protection. Since then, he has experimented with different recyclable and locally available materials every year. "His creative Ganesha idols over the years include: "2010: Newspaper Ganesha "2011: Paper tea-cup Ganesha "2012: Clay-lamp (Pramida) Ganesha "2013: Water-packet Ganesha "2014: Tissue-paper Ganesha "2015: Matchbox Ganesha "2016: Machine-thread Ganesha "2017: Doraemon Ganesha "2018: Kinder Joy-toy Ganesha "2019: Ice-cream-cup Ganesha "2020: Earbud Ganesha "2021: Ice-cream-stick Ganesha "2022: Coffee-bean Ganesha "2023: Chandrayaan Ganesha "2024: Paper-straw Ganesha "2025: Operation Sindoor Ganesha "2026: Ganesha made with 10,000 leaf plates and moduga-leaf bowls "Surya Prakash, a symbol of creativity "With his continuous efforts and innovative thinking, Surya Prakash has earned recognition for creating diverse eco-friendly Ganesha idols. Instead of depending on others, he has been bearing the expenses himself and dedicating his time and resources towards promoting environmentally friendly celebrations. "His creativity and commitment have also been recognised by several organisations, which have felicitated him and presented him with appreciation certificates and awards, including a home theatre. "Surya Prakash's 16-year journey demonstrates how creativity can be combined with environmental responsibility. His unique Ganesha idols not only attract devotees but also convey an important message about protecting nature and reducing pollution during festival celebrations. "Local residents and devotees have appreciated his sustained efforts and innovative approach, stating that such initiatives can inspire more people to choose eco-friendly Ganesha idols and environmentally responsible celebrations.

# Kowkoo Bus Stop Junction Set for Major Development Push

"Aim to Transform Kowkoo into a Model Kowkoo: Thudimella Mallikarjun

"ALWAL SEPTEMBER 16 (INDIAN CHRONICLE) "Telangana mass leader and former MLA Sri Mynampally Hanumanth Rao visited the Vinayaka immersion pond at the Kowkoo Bus Stop Junction and inspected the arrangements made for the immersion ceremony. He interacted with officials and reviewed measures to ensure that devotees and the general public faced no inconvenience. Later, Mynampally Hanumanth Rao discussed the development of the Kowkoo Bus Stop Junction with Zonal Commissioner Sanchit Gangwar and DE Padmalatha. The discussion focused on developing the junction into a major traffic point with improved infrastructure, better traffic management and enhanced public convenience. Speaking on the occasion, senior Congress leader from Malkajgiri constituency and social activist Thudimella Mallikarjun said several inspections had already been conducted in coordination with TSSPDCL officials for the development of the junction. He said the process of relocating electricity poles was currently at the estimation stage and was being taken forward in coordination with



the concerned departments. Mallikarjun pointed out that the Kowkoo Bus Stop Junction had become an accident-prone area due to heavy traffic and inadequate traffic management. He called for immediate measures such as road widening, relocation of electricity poles, installation of proper traffic signals, pedestrian safety facilities and deployment of traffic personnel during peak hours. He said improving the junction would help reduce traffic congestion, prevent accidents and ensure greater safety for residents, commuters and

schoolchildren. "Our main agenda is to transform Kowkoo into a model Kowkoo. We are giving priority to basic infrastructure such as roads, drainage, electricity, sanitation and traffic facilities. The needs and safety of the people are our first priority," Mallikarjun said. "He recalled that a Vinayaka immersion pond was established at Kowkoo in 2024, during Mynampally Hanumanth Rao's tenure as MLA, within the Alwal municipal limits. He said several development initiatives benefiting the people of Kowkoo had been taken forward under his leadership. Former corporator Raj Jitendranath, Malkajgiri constituency Congress party in-charge Lakshmikanth Reddy, along with Srinivas Yadav, Ali Mallesh, Asifulla Khan, Ali Pandu, Syed Aslam, Gaurinath, Gomaram Anjireddy, Dharmarao, Krishna Mudiraj, Venkateshwarlu, Satti Reddy, Chitra Gokul, Pushpa, Vani and others participated in the programme.

# Second Day Ganesh Puja at Jyothinagar; SI Devender Felicitated by Lambodara Sena

"Alwal, September 16 (INDIAN CHRONICLE) "The second-day Ganesh Puja celebrations, organised by Lambodara Sena at Jyothinagar Colony in Alwal, were conducted with devotion and in a peaceful atmosphere.

The puja was held from 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm, with local residents and devotees participating and offering prayers to Lord Ganesha. Alwal SI Devender attended the programme and offered special prayers to Lord Ganesha. On the occasion, members of Lambodara Sena felicitated SI Devender in recognition of his dedicated service, commitment to public safety and selfless approach towards the welfare of society. The organisers appreciated his service-oriented approach and efforts towards the well-being of the community. Local residents expressed their happiness over the peaceful and devotional conduct of the celebrations. G. Hari Prakash, Mallareddy, Bommaraju, Uday Kumar, Vivekananda, Ritwik, Deva Datt, Sai Teja, Suneesh and other members participated in the programme.



# Fake Currency Notes and Ganja Seized; One Arrested

“UPPAL, SEPTEMBER 16 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Police arrested a man who allegedly attempted to circulate counterfeit currency notes and seized fake currency notes worth Rs. 2.50 lakh and 10 grams of ganja from his possession. The accused was sent to judicial remand. Police are continuing their investigation to trace another suspect who fled the scene. “Fraudulent Offer of Rs. 2.50 Lakh for Rs. 25,000” According to police, Monu Singh (24), a resident of Old Neredmet Dargah area in Safilguda, Malkajgiri, was informed by his friend Prithvi that an unidentified person had contacted him through Instagram and offered Rs. 2.50 lakh in exchange for Rs. 25,000. Suspecting fraud, Monu and his friends planned to catch the person. “On September 15, at around 7 p.m., Monu contacted the suspect through WhatsApp using his mobile phone and asked where he should bring the money. The suspect asked him to send a photograph of the cash. Monu took a photograph of the money and sent it through WhatsApp. “The suspect initially asked Monu to come to Uppal Metro Pillar No. 871. However, he did not arrive at the location and later instructed Monu to come to Pillar No. 906 after an hour. “One Suspect Escapes on Scooter” Monu and his friends waited near Pillar No. 906. At around 8.30 p.m., two men arrived at the location on an Activa scooter. The pillion rider asked Monu to hand over the money. Monu caught hold of him and pulled him off the scooter. Meanwhile, the person riding the scooter fled from the scene. “On checking the cover carried by the apprehended person, police found five bundles of Rs. 500 notes, with a total face value of Rs. 2.50 lakh, which were identified as counterfeit currency notes. A packet containing approximately 10 grams of ganja was also found. “Accused Arrested; Search

Underway for Another Suspect” During questioning, the apprehended person was identified as Mohammed Mohsin (25), a resident of Shankarnagar, Madina Colony, Malakpet, Hyderabad. He reportedly works in decoration services. The person who fled on the scooter was identified as Firoz. “Monu Singh and his friends handed over Mohammed Mohsin, the counterfeit currency notes and the ganja to the police. A case was registered, and Mohammed Mohsin was arrested and sent to judicial remand. Police are continuing their investigation to trace Firoz. “Police appealed to the public to immediately inform the nearest police station if they have any information regarding counterfeit currency, narcotics or suspicious financial transactions.



# New Youth Congress Appointments in Uppal

Youth Leaders Should Work for Party Strengthening: Akarapu Arun Patel

“UPPAL, SEPTEMBER 16 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Following the directions of Uppal Assembly Constituency Congress Party In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy and with the support of Telangana State Youth Congress President Jakkidi Shivacharan Reddy, Uppal Assembly Constituency Youth Congress President Akarapu Arun Patel appointed several young leaders to new positions. “Appointment letters were handed over to youth leaders who have been working continuously to strengthen the party. “Newly Appointed Youth Leaders” Uppal Assembly Constituency Committee: “\* Sanath Ajay Kumar – Assembly Secretary “\* Maraju Rajesh – Assembly Secretary “\* Dongala Bappi Reddy – Assembly Secretary “\* Mekala Shiva – Assembly Secretary “Venkat Reddy Nagar, 27th Division: “\* Gummula Balaraju – President “\* Shaik Basha – Working President “\* Rayaveni Naveen Kumar – Vice President “\* Burada Naveen Kumar – General Secretary “\* Kadege Vardhan – Vice President “\* C.H. Narasimha Chary – Joint Secretary “\* Naam Arshith Reddy – Organising Secretary “\* Pulimamidi Bharat – Organising Secretary “\* Budda Balayya Mahesh – Vice President “\* Munigalla Vishnu Vardhan – Secretary “\* Burada Pawan Kumar – Joint Secretary “\* Allathanda Vamshi – Joint Secretary “\* Bharat – Secretary “Nacharam Division: “\* Majjaiga Joshith Yadav – Division Secretary “Ramanthapur Division: “\* G. Sai Kiran – 26th Ward Vice President “\* B. Gautham – 26th Ward Working President “Arun Patel congratulated all the newly appointed youth leaders and advised them to work in coordination for strengthening the party and promoting public welfare.

# Ramnagar Sewerage Overflow Problem Under Focus

## Ex-Corporator Shanti Srinivas Reddy Calls for Permanent Solution

“Alwal, September 16 (INDIAN CHRONICLE) “Former Corporator Shanti Srinivas Reddy inspected the recurring sewerage overflow problem in Ramnagar, along with HMWSSB DGM Venkatesh and Manager Ramesh. The team assessed the situation on the ground and reviewed the difficulties being faced by local resi-



dents due to the repeated overflow. Shanti Srinivas Reddy urged the HMWSSB officials to take immediate and effective measures to address the issue permanently. He pointed out that the sewerage overflow has been occurring repeatedly, causing inconvenience to residents and affecting the locality. He requested the officials to identify the root cause of the problem, take up the necessary sewerage works and ensure that the issue does not recur. He stressed the need for a long-term and permanent solution rather than temporary measures. George, Arun, Prashanth, Mahesh, Ramakrishna and Manish were present during the inspection.

# Ai+ Smartphone to Cross 1,000+ Service Touchpoints; Announces First Exclusive Service Centre and Ai+ Assistance App

““Hyderabad: ““““Ai+ Smartphone is strengthening its after-sales experience in India with plans to expand its service network to 1,000+ service centers across the country. It will also be establishing its first exclusive

A promotional graphic for Ai+ Smartphone. On the left, the Ai+ logo is displayed above the text '1000+ SERVICE CENTRES. NOW CLOSER TO YOU.' Below this, it says '1st exclusive service center' and 'Wider reach. Easier access.' At the bottom left, it mentions 'Seamless support with the Ai+ Assistance App through real-time tracking.' On the right, there is a glowing blue map of India with a network of dots and lines representing service centers. In the foreground, two smartphones are shown: one displaying a gear icon and a 'REPAIR' button, and the other showing a detailed internal component diagram.

**Ai+**  
**1000+ SERVICE CENTRES.**  
NOW CLOSER TO YOU.

**1st exclusive  
service center**

**Wider reach.  
Easier access.**

Seamless support with the  
**Ai+ Assistance App** through real-time tracking.

Ai+ Service Centre in Delhi this Diwali. Complementing the expansion of its physical service infrastructure, the brand is also introducing the Ai+ Assistance App, a unified digital platform designed to bring device support, service bookings, ticket tracking and troubleshooting assistance together in one place. ““The expansion will add 200+ service centres to its already existing network of 800+ service centres, further extending the brand’s after-sales reach across India. Together, the physical and digital expansion is aimed at making the ownership experience more accessible, transparent and consistent for Ai+ customers, from raising a service request to tracking its resolution. ““Commenting on the announcement, Madhav Sheth, CEO, NxtQuantum Shift Technologies (Ai+ Smartphone), said, “Building a smartphone brand goes beyond the device. At Ai+, the ownership experience is where the real relationship begins. Crossing 1,000+ service touchpoints, establishing our first exclusive service centre and introducing the Ai+ Assistance App are important steps towards making support more accessible, transparent and dependable. Our focus is simple, to ensure that wherever our customers are, reliable support is never far away.”““The upcoming Delhi facility will be Ai+’s first dedicated Service Centre in India, offering trained technical support, genuine spare parts, standardised repairs, software assistance, warranty support and device setup across the Ai+ smartphone portfolio. For common service requirements, Ai+ is targeting turnaround times ranging from same-day resolution to up to seven days, depending on the nature and complexity of the issue.

# Flipkart Creates Over 2.5 Lakh Employment Opportunities This Festive Season, Including 75,000 First-Time Workforce Entrants

Hyderabad: Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, today announced the creation of more than 2.5 lakh direct and indirect employment opportunities, including gig workers, for the festive season. Nearly 75,000 of these opportunities, close to 30%, are for people entering the workforce for the first time, creating pathways into employment across communities in India. These opportunities span more than 7,000 Ekart facilities across the country, including fulfilment centres, sortation hubs and last-mile delivery operations. "With over 900 new festive delivery hubs and nearly 1.4 lakh additional last-mile employment opportunities, Flipkart is expanding its delivery network to meet rising customer demand ahead of Big Billion Days. Last-mile opportunities account for 60% of the new employment created this season, reflecting the expansion of Flipkart Minutes as well as growing demand across Tier 2 and Tier 3 markets. "The expansion is also creating greater opportunities for women and persons with disabilities across Flipkart's supply chain. Women now represent over 20% of supply chain roles, while participation of persons with disabilities has increased across warehouse and delivery operations. "Rajneesh Kumar, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Flipkart Group, said, "Commerce at scale creates opportunity at scale, across jobs, livelihoods and entrepreneurship. The nearly 75,000 people entering the workforce for the first time through Flipkart this festive season are one part of that larger ecosystem. As digital commerce grows across India, our responsibility is to ensure that this growth creates pathways into employment and entrepreneurship for more people, including communities that have historically had fewer opportunities to participate in the formal economy. Our work with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, NCVET and ITI Kalyani through SCOA is aimed at creating those pathways, so that people can build skills and careers alongside the growth of the sector. "Hemant Badri, Senior Vice President, Supply Chain, Customer Experience and Re-Commerce, Flipkart Group, said, "The festive season brings together the full scale of India's commerce ecosystem, and our supply chain plays a critical role in making that possible.



The nearly 75,000 people entering the workforce for the first time through Flipkart this festive season are one part of that larger ecosystem. As digital commerce grows across India, our responsibility is to ensure that this growth creates pathways into employment and entrepreneurship for more people, including communities that have historically had fewer opportunities to participate in the formal economy. Our work with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, NCVET and ITI Kalyani through SCOA is aimed at creating those pathways, so that people can build skills and careers alongside the growth of the sector. "Hemant Badri, Senior Vice President, Supply Chain, Customer Experience and Re-Commerce, Flipkart Group, said, "The festive season brings together the full scale of India's commerce ecosystem, and our supply chain plays a critical role in making that possible.

## ONE RIDE 2026: FINAL CALL TO RIDE FOR THE SNOW LEOPARD

Hyderabad: On September 20, 2026, thousands of riders around the globe will take to the road for One Ride, Royal Enfield's annual global celebration of Pure Motorcycling. "Since 2011, One Ride has brought riders together on the same day across countries and continents, bound together by the simple joy of riding. This year, as Royal Enfield marks its 125th anniversary, the ride will span more than 1,600 rides across 60 countries – a global gathering shaped by a shared love of motorcycling and, for 2026, a shared responsibility towards the places that make those journeys possible. "Under the call "Every Rider. Every Road. One Mission.", One Ride 2026 is dedicated to the snow leopard, a keystone species of the high mountains and an enduring symbol of the landscape. The Himalayas are Royal Enfield's spiritual home, explored by generations of riders and central to its culture of motorcycling x. For every rider who participates in One Ride 2026, Royal Enfield will make a contribution towards snow leopard conservation – recognising that a relationship with the mountains carries with it a responsibility to help preserve them. "The initiative draws on conservation work already under way through Royal Enfield Social Mission. Its community conservation projects span Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Jammu and Kashmir, covering more than 10,500 sq km of snow leopard habitat, with 53 sq km brought under its community conservation programme. India is currently home to an estimated 718 snow leopards. Through One Ride, this mission expands globally: whether participating in Delhi, London, or São Paulo, every rider directly contributes to conservation efforts anchored in the high Himalayas. "With 20 September just over a week away, registrations are now in their final stretch. Riders can find and join a One Ride through their nearest Royal Enfield dealership or online, while riding clubs and independent riders can also create rides of their own. For those yet to register, there is still time to take their place on the road.



India is currently home to an estimated 718 snow leopards. Through One Ride, this mission expands globally: whether participating in Delhi, London, or São Paulo, every rider directly contributes to conservation efforts anchored in the high Himalayas. "With 20 September just over a week away, registrations are now in their final stretch. Riders can find and join a One Ride through their nearest Royal Enfield dealership or online, while riding clubs and independent riders can also create rides of their own. For those yet to register, there is still time to take their place on the road.

# Created to Explore: Canon's EOS R8 Mark II Inspires Users to See the World Differently

“Hyderabad: Canon today announced the EOS R8 Mark II, a new compact and lightweight 24.2-megapixel full-frame mirrorless camera. The successor to the EOS R8 supports Coordinated Control IS, new creative functions and interfaces. Technologies and controls available on more advanced models in the Canon EOS R series can also be found on the EOS R8 Mark II, packaged within a stylish new, modern design. “A Delight to Look At, a Dream to Carry” Offering a modern reinterpretation of Canon’s iconic pentaprism form, the EOS R8 Mark II features a new sleek contemporary design that blends linearity with curves. Marrying looks with portability, comfort and convenience, it is Canon’s smallest and lightest full-frame mirrorless camera with In-Body IS at approx. 131.4 x 90.0 x 79.7mm and weighing approx. 546g. With its compact body, the EOS R8 Mark II retains a comfortable grip and ergonomic design. “The camera is the first EOS R series full-frame camera of its class to incorporate the multi-controller (“joystick”) found on higher-end cameras, allowing intuitive autofocus control even while the user’s eye is on the viewfinder. Users with larger-sized hands can achieve a firmer hold with the Extension Grip EG-E2 (sold separately), which can be attached and detached easily with a simple turn of a dial. The Extension Grip EG-E2 also supports tripod mounting and battery changing. “More Imaging Possibilities Right Out of the Box” The EOS R8 Mark II’s full-frame CMOS sensor offers approximately 2.5x larger light-gathering surface of an APS-C sensor. This means enhanced image quality, better low light performance, and AF performance as more information with less image noise can be captured even in low light conditions. The sensor in the EOS R8 Mark II provides a wider field of view on the same focal length as compared to an APS-C sensor, making it possible to capture breathtaking, immersive images with ultra-wide-angle lenses, or achieve beautiful bokeh in the background and foreground easily.”



## Meta agrees to change child abuse reporting process in India

New Delhi: Meta officials admitted to a mistake during their appearance before the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) on Wednesday and said the company would report child abuse content directly to Indian law enforcement agencies, government sources said.

The officials also indicated that going forward, Meta would itself vet such content, amid scrutiny over the role of its algorithms in amplifying content and determining its visibility on its platforms.

Meta India chief Arun Srinivas and other senior executives appeared before the child rights panel for the second time in a week as the NCPCR intensified its inquiry into alleged advertisements linked to Child Sexual Exploitative and Abuse Material (CSEAM) on Instagram.

Government sources said Meta officials acknowledged the mistake dur-

ing the hearing and agreed to strengthen the company’s reporting mechanism for child safety-related cases in India.

The officials said Meta would directly report child abuse content to Indian law enforcement agencies through the cybercrime portal managed by the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), the sources said.

Going forward, Meta will itself vet such content, according to the government sources. The development assumes significance amid questions over the role of the platform’s algorithms in amplifying content and determining what users see.

Government sources said Meta could no longer be viewed simply as an intermediary, given the role played by its systems and algorithms in influencing content visibility on its platforms. They said social media companies have

a responsibility to take proactive measures to safeguard children from harmful online content.

Srinivas did not respond to repeated media queries about the proceedings as he left the NCPCR office following Wednesday’s meeting.

week after senior Meta executives appeared before the commission on September 9. The NCPCR subsequently summoned Meta India’s managing director and other senior officials again for Wednesday’s hearing as part of its formal inquiry. Stream History Documentaries

Meta, which owns Instagram and Facebook, had earlier routed child safety-related cases primarily through the US-based National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). Its decision to report such matters directly to Indian authorities marks a change in that process.



The latest appearance came a

# Tesla to unveil long-delayed next-generation Roadster on October 1

Tesla will unveil its long-delayed next-generation Roadster on October 1, CEO Elon Musk announced.

First showcased in 2017, the high-performance electric sports car has faced repeated delays and is now reportedly being developed as an all-new carbon-fibre hypercar



New Delhi: Tesla CEO Elon Musk has announced that the electric vehicle maker will unveil its long-delayed next-generation Roadster on October 1, nearly a decade after the company first showcased plans for a successor to its original sports car.

Tesla's official account on social media platform X posted "Go for launch" along with a graphic displaying October 1 as the date for the event. Musk, who also owns X, subsequently responded to the post, writing, "New Tesla Roadster Unveil 10.01."

The announcement comes after years of delays surrounding the Roadster programme. Tesla first unveiled the next-generation model in 2017 and had initially said that deliveries would begin in 2020. However, the vehicle's development has repeatedly been pushed back. Compare Electric Cars

The Information reported in August that Tesla was planning to unveil the redesigned Roadster as early as that month. The report also said the event could feature a demonstration of a limited-edition version equipped with cold-gas thrusters developed in collaboration with SpaceX.

The reported demonstration is expected to take place at SpaceX's test facility in McGregor, Texas, according to the report.

The Roadster project has also evolved significantly from Tesla's original plans. The vehicle is reportedly being developed as an all-new carbon-fibre hypercar after the company abandoned an earlier approach that would have used components based on the Model S Plaid.

The latest announcement comes as Tesla continues to expand its focus beyond conventional electric vehicles and towards autonomous driving. Last week, the company began offering limited rides in its two-seater Cybercab in Austin, Texas. The vehicle does not have a steering wheel or pedals and is designed around Tesla's vision for fully autonomous transportation.

Musk has described the Cybercab as a key part of his strategy to transform Tesla into a dominant player in driverless vehicles.

The Roadster, meanwhile, is expected to reinforce Tesla's performance credentials as the company seeks to bring its high-performance sports car back to the market after years of development delays. Compare Car Insurance